California GARDEN

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2005 Volume 96 No. 6 $3.00

THE MARCH OF THE MONARCHS

December Nights

County Ecological Zones

Agave, Bromeliads, and more!

From the President...

Dear members and friends of Floral,

As Fall approaches, we can observe the days getting shorter and the evenings beginning to cool. This, coupled with the still warm soil, creates an ideal time of the year to begin planting annuals for fall bloom color, for selecting spring blooming bulbs, and establishing shrubs and California natives. You'll find a great selection of native plants through organizations such as the Native Plant Society and a wide assortment of seeds and plant material at your local nurseries. Check for listings of Fall plant shows and sales in the Calendar section of this magazine and the local newspapers.

The Floral Board met in August for an organizational meeting and luncheon. This gave us the opportunity to welcome the committed and enthusiastic new officers and directors Dolly Hartman, Janina Fernandez, Barbara Forrest, Cheryl Gaidmore, Laura Crenshaw, and Merry Street. We spent time reviewing the accomplishments of the past year and making plans for our year ahead. So many great ideas were exchanged that we put our new secretary to the test recording them all. I'm looking forward to sharing these with the membership throughout the year.

Before we know it the holidays will be upon us. Floral's talented pair of elves, Kay and Kathy, are busy coordinating this year's December Nights festivities held in Room 101 of the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. This year's theme is " A Pastel Panorama." For those of you with a flair for nonconventional designing and decorating, this year's theme should inspire you to a new level of creativity. And, back by popular demand, San Diego Floral Association offers the Member's Tea. The Tea provides a perfect opportunity for Floral members and our garden club friends to get together for tea, treats, and lively conversations. Come celebrate the gift of friendship.

Will you be looking for fun craft classes to enroll in this fall? I suggest that you look at Marie Walsh's calendar of popular, season-related workshops posted in the Newsletter and on the SDFA website at **sdfloral.org**. Here you'll find classes offering something for everyone. You'll enjoy the camaraderie of imaginative, creative friends, share a light lunch, and take home a finished work of art.

This is also the ideal time of year to set aside those garden chores every so often and take notice of the seasonal changes taking place all around us. I'm hoping that you'll find as much pleasure as I do in walking about and observing the kaleidoscope of Fall foliage in our San Diego communities. Not as dramatic as we'd see back east, but glorious sights to be appreciated nonetheless!

Sincerely,

Dee Krutop

~ A Fond Farewell ~

Jacqueline Coleman has been the editor of *California Garden* magazine for the past twelve years, and the San Diego Floral Association regrets to announce her retirement.

Jackie has been fascinated with the growing of plants since she was a small child helping her grandmother with her garden in Vista. When she purchased her home in San Diego, she was able to enjoy a limited amount of gardening. After she retired from the telephone company, she decided to expand her garden. To learn more, she enrolled in one of Betty Newton's gardening classes. There she learned about plants, but Betty also informed her students about San Diego Floral, our magazine, and our need for volunteers. Jackie joined Floral and volunteered to help with the magazine. Within a year she had mastered the computer program we use and all the techniques necessary to publish. She agreed to become editor. Now, here we are twelve years later. She has been a volunteer throughout this entire period. *California Garden* is the oldest horticulture magazine published in the United States, and she has made it possible for us to carry on. Thank you, Jackie! Now you can finally have time to get to that garden.

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We welcome articles, photographs, drawings, and ideas from amateurs and professionals. Deadlines for the next issue are the 20th of January, March, May, July, September, and November. We do not pay for articles or artwork. We cannot guarantee the safe return of material. *California Garden* reserves the right to edit any and all submitted material. Submissions must be on a CD or as an e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of *California Garden*. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.

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VOLUME 96 NUMBER 6

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER
NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2005

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden* if you'd like the magazine sold at your show.

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HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Nov. 10 Thur.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS. Volunteer Orientation. 9:30 a.m. - Noon Join us to learn about the many different volunteer opportunities. Includes a tour of the Gardens, a slide presentation on the Gardens' history and refreshments. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Please contact 760-436-3036 x206 for more information or visit www.qbgardens.org.

Nov. 10 Thur.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN CLASS Solana Center for Environmental Innovation: FREE Landscaper's Workshop, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. A panel of landscape contractors, tree trimmers and others will demonstrate BEST PRACTICES and give testimonials pruning trees and bushes, and provide useful tips on green waste recycling, and grasscycling. To register, call Cindy, 760/ 436-7986 ext. 216 or email cindy@solanacenter.org 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon.

Nov. 12 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on Poinsettias. 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or, Houseplant care, keeping them alive! 9:30 a.m., 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Nov. 12 Sat..

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN CLASS "Designing Landscapes with Native Plants", 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Discover the variety of California native plants with Greg Rubin, owner of California's Own Native Landscape Design. Learn the proper care and placement of drought-tolerant natives, and get ideas for designing your own home garden from Greg's stunning slide show of native plant landscapes 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Register early, this class fills fast! Member $5, Non-Member $8. Minimum 10 students per class.

Nov. 14 Mon.

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Monthly Meeting. "Designing with California Natives" with Greg Rubin 6:30 p.m. Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Jimmy Durante Blvd. 760/730-3268. Free.

Nov. 15 Tues.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ROSE SOCIETY Annual Silent Rose Auction. 6:30 p.m. Heritage Hall, Magee Park, Highway 101, Carlsbad. www.coastalrose.org or 760/931-9863. Free.

Nov. 15 Tues.

★WOOD SCULPTURE FOR FALL FLOWER ARRANGEMENT Sponsored by SDFA. Teacher: Velma West. All materials supplied. Wood sculpture will be used as mechanics for future designs. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. **Must pre-register.** 619/232-5762. Cost: $30.

Nov. 16 Wed.

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB "Propagation: Multiplication Made Easy" **Jim Bishop will speak about** propagation by seed, cutting, division, layering, and grafting. Jim will share experiences and tips and discuss the challenges of propagation in our hilly, breezy microclimate. He will also demonstrate how to turn your propagations into holiday gifts. Multiply the garden, make gifts, and impress your friends. 6:00 p.m. social time, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw Street (at Fort Stockton) Entrance on Jackdaw. 619/295-2702 or check www.missionhillsgardenclub.org. Guests $10, Members free.

Nov. 19 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY Open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership includes magazine, $15.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

Nov. 19 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on Dormant Spraying/Pruning Grapes & Berries, 9 a.m., 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or, Garden Railroading, Christmas Trains, Getting Started, 9:30 a.m., 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Nov. 19 Sat..

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Succulent Color Splendor and Plant Sale with Michael Buckner, "The Plant Man", 1-4 p.m. Michael Buckner, designer of the new Cactus and Succulent Garden at the Water Conservation Garden, presents a gorgeous slide show and informative lecture about gardening with cacti and succulents. A plant sale featuring several varieties of cacti and succulents follows the presentation. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Member $5, Non-Member $8. Minimum 10 students per class, please register early

Nov. 20 Sun.

WASHU-KAI SUMI-E PAINTING Show. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. 619/237-0658. Free.

Nov. 22 Tues.

★THANKSGIVING TOPIARY CONE ARRANGEMENT Sponsored by SDFA. Teacher: Velma West. Bring fruits, dried or fresh, to add to the Topiary cone; all other materials supplied. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. **Must pre-register.** 619/232-5762. Cost: $30.

Nov. 26 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS No classes at either location.

Nov. 29 Tues.

★WORKSHOP TO PREPARE FOR DECEMBER NIGHTS IN BALBOA PARK AND REFURBISH YOUR THANKSGIVING TOPIARY FOR CHRISTMAS Sponsored by SDFA. Teacher: Velma West. Add red roses or poinsettias or mini lights to your topiary cone arrangement to use it for Christmas. Work with a great instructor to prepare your arrangement for the "December Nights" display. Happy Holidays! Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. **Must pre-register.** 619/232-5762. Cost: $25.

Dec. 2 Fri. through Jan. 4 Wed.

BOTANICAL BUILDING POINSETTIA DISPLAY In Balboa Park**.** Open to the Public 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dec. 2-3 Fri.-Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Annual Holiday Show, as part of Balboa Park's December Nights, "A Pastel Panorama." Casa del Prado, Room 101. 5-9 p.m. both days. 619/232-5762. Free.

Dec. 3 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY Open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership includes magazine, $15.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

Dec. 3 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on Pruning Apples, Pears, Figs & Persimmons, 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or, Azaleas and Camellias, 9:30 a.m., 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Dec. 3 Sat.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Plant Clinic with the Master Gardeners, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Let the Master Gardeners answer your plant questions at this day-long clinic. Bring in your plant clippings for identification and disease diagnosis and learn which "pests" are good and bad. And, learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM), an ecologically based pest-control system for the garden. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

Dec. 3 Sat.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Backyard Compost Bin Sale,1-4 p.m. Residents of Unincorporated San Diego County can choose from two kinds of compost bins: one for worm composting and the other for yard debris composting. Pick up a bin or two, as well as helpful composting tips. For more information call The Solana Center at 760/436-7986, x216. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon.

Dec. 5 Mon.

PALOMAR DISTRICT FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2005-2006 Bob Gordon The former President of CGCI will create beautiful designs for the Holidays! 12:30 p.m. at Women's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 760/749-9608. $8.

Dec. 6 Tues.

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB Annual Holiday Tea and Bazaar. 12:30-3:00 p.m. in the Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Drive North. Tea and sandwiches will be served. A bazaar and bake sale will offer a wide variety of holiday treats and gifts. A $10 donation helps support four college horticultural scholarships. Reservations and information: Judy White 858/456-6293 or Jody Petersen, 858/729-0711.

Dec. 8 Wed.

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB Holiday Tea and Bazaar. The Soledad Singers will present a 30 min. program of holiday music. Holiday crafts and greenery will be for sale. 10 a.m. at Masonic Center, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., SD. Check www.plgc.org or call 619/276-0209. Free.

Dec. 9-11, 15-23, also Dec. 26-30

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Garden of Lights. After the sun goes down, the Gardens are transformed into a dazzling winter wonderland with 90,000+ sparkling lights illuminating the plants and trees for a magical holiday experience. Numerous activities including holiday crafts, marshmallow roasting, visits with Santa, musicians and refreshments. 5-9 p.m. $6 non-members, Children under 3 are free, $2 children 3-12, $4 Members, Seniors, Students, Active Military. 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. 760/436-3036.

Dec. 10 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on Rose Pruning-First Class, 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or, Fruit Tree Pruning, 9:30 a.m., 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Dec. 12 Mon.

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Monthly Meeting "Camellias & Azaleas" with Tom Nuccio. Plus annual cookie exchange. 6:30 p.m., Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Jimmy Durante Blvd. 760/730-3268. Free.

Dec. 13 Tues.

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY Annual Christmas pot luck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Each member attending will receive a geranium plant. There will be a program. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Visitors welcome. Free.

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HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Dec. 14 Wed.
BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB Christmas Luncheon: Coronado Marriott Hotel & Resort Speaker: Gerald Stewart, New Leaf Nurseries "Holiday Flowers for Home & Yard." Contact: Leslie Schroeder 619/216-8863, schle@cox.net **or** www.bonitavalleygardenclub.org.

Dec. 14 Wed.
POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB Monthly Meeting: David Ross of Andersen's Nursery in Poway will join us for our Holiday Tea. He will present plants from the nursery that will pique our interest for the holiday. 10:00 a.m. at the Masonic Center, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., San Diego. Visit www.plgc.org or 619/276-0209.

Dec. 17 Sat.
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY Open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership includes magazine, $15.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

Dec. 17 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on Pruning Peaches and Nectarines, 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or, Rose Pruning/Bare Root Roses, 9:30 a.m., 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Dec. 24 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN No Classes.

Dec. 31 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on Pruning Apricot and Plum Trees, 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. No Class at., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

"DOWN TO EARTH' with Tom Piergrossi
Daily at 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on CTN
Time Warner 22 or Cox 19 or 24, and Adelphia 66

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Plant Day at the Zoo. 3rd Friday of each month see approximately 700,000 plants. Orchid Greenhouse opens to the public 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Take a free botanically themed bus tour at 2 p.m. starts at the Orchid Greenhouse. Free with general admission.

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Volunteer guided. Various topics. Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Volunteer guided. History oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation Garden is home to 4+ acres of beautiful, award-winning low water use landscaping and educational displays. Docent-led tours Saturdays 10:30 a.m. and Sundays 1:30 p.m.
619/660-0614. Check website calendar for classes and special events at www.thegarden.org. Free.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS
Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call for times on docent led garden tours, weekly or monthly events, and classes for kids and adults. Free Composting class 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., first Saturday of the month. Bird Watching 1st Monday of every month 8:00AM Discover the many birds at QBG. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com. General Admission.

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN Exquisite Asian garden. 404 Third Ave., San Diego. Tues.-Sat. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 12-4 p.m. Free.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
Canyoneer Walks. Sat-Sun. Sept-June. 619/232-3821 ext 203 or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times and directions. Free.

SAN DIEGO ZOO ORCHID ODESSEY
Third Friday of every month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., showcasing orchids from Papua New Guinea, Central and South America, Africa, Thailand, Australia, China, and Vietnam. Free with Zoo admission.

THE HUNTINGTON is open Tuesday through Friday noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. $15 adults, $12 seniors, $10 students (12-18), $6 youth (5-11) under 5 and members free. Group rate(10+) $11. 626/405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

Deadline for submission to ***HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR*** *for JANUARY/FEBRUARY issue is DECEMBER 1. Email event info to* ***calendar@sdfloral.org****.* ***SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION*** *is not responsible for last minute changes or any information submitted late by the organizations.*

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

FALL 2005
CRAFT AND FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOPS

All classes 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Room 104, Casa del Prado. Coffee and sweets provided; bring your own lunch. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register and pay, contact the Association at 619-232-5762. Pre-registration recommended as enrollment is limited.

September 20, 2005 **Succulent Wreath**
Teacher: Kathy Walsh. "Preparing for the Christmas Holidays." All materials supplied. **Advanced reservations are required**.
Cost: $55.

September 27, 2005 **"Try Something New: Program on Panels"**
Teachers: Myrna Hynes. Pre-register by calling Marie Walsh at 619-298-5182 to obtain instructions and materials list.
Cost: $25.

October 4, 11, and 18, 2005
Teacher: M. J. Wyrdo. **Gourd Workshop**, "Come Let Your Fancy Flow." This is a series of three progressive sessions to complete the project of your choice. All materials and tools supplied.
Cost: $50 for three classes, plus $10 materials fee for instructor.

October 25, 2005 **Pine Needle Basket**
All materials furnished.
Cost: $20, members; $25, non-members.

November 1, 2005 **Contemporary American Flower Arranging**
Teacher: Velma West, award-winning floral designer and teacher. Line and Line-Mass Floral Design. Good basic class for beginners. After lunch: Learn how to use glycerin to preserve leaves to be used for a Fall arrangement. Bring flowers, either purchased or from the garden.
Cost: $25

November 8, 2005 **Basket Class**
Teacher: Kathy Walsh Bring clippers and your lunch. Basket materials found in the Park and garden will be furnished.
Cost: $30

November 15, 2005 **Wood Sculpture for Fall Flower Arrangement**
Teacher: Velma West All materials supplied. Wood sculpture will be used as mechanics for future designs.
Cost:$30

November 22, 2005 **Thanksgiving Topiary Cone Arrangement**
Teacher: Velma West
Bring fruits, dried or fresh, to add to the Topiary cone; all other materials supplied.
Cost $30

November 29, 2005 **Workshop to Prepare for December Nights in Balboa Park and Refurbish Your Thanksgiving Topiary for Christmas**
Teacher: Velma West
Add red roses or poinsettias or mini lights to your topiary cone arrangement to use it for Christmas. Work with a great instructor to prepare your arrangement for the "December Nights" display. Happy Holidays!
Cost, $25

gleanings . . . gathered by barbara jones

CONTAINER GARDENING. . .

Home gardeners whose gardens are reduced to small patios and balconies have long utilized containers. Many are finding that even if they have open ground it is easier to plant minimum care backgrounds and use containers for seasonal accents or artistic emphasis. The recent introduction of huge containers made of attractive, durable, lightweight fiberglass resins and polyurethanes that resemble heavier ones made of ceramic, cement, or metal has expanded the range of plants that can be container grown by the home gardener. Plant breeders are producing miniature plants, flowers, shrubs, and trees suitable for container gardening, but experienced gardeners know that they can plant regular size seasonal bulbs. With careful plant selection, the container bulb garden can have flowers throughout the whole season.

Containers need less weeding, but watering and fertilizing must be done more often. Water wisely only when the surface is dry, one inch or less for small and shallow pots, 2-3 inches for an 18-inch pot, 4-6 inches for a half barrel or large urn/pot. Always water until water runs out of the drain holes. Watering washes nutrients from the soil, so it must be replaced during the growing season with small doses, about half or quarter as much as used in the open ground.

Successful container gardening needs proper soil. Tropical plants and annuals need rich and water-retaining soil; thin and fast-draining soil for succulents, natives, and bulbs; and regular soil for fruit trees and flowering trees and shrubs.

FALL COLOR . . .

Maybe our local fall color does not compare with the spectacular shows put on in the Eastern deciduous forests, but we have our displays. It is lovely to view the beautiful yellow show in local valleys of the native western sycamores (*Platanus raecemosa*).

Some of the best local color is the purple and red liquidamber (*Liquidamber styraciflua*). This tree is not a good choice for the home garden as the roots are invasive and create problems with sidewalks. Other fall color trees that do well here and are suitable for gardens are the maidenhair tree (*Ginko biloba*), that has lovely yellow leaves; Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinesis*) with vivid scarlet and orange color; crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) with gold, red, and orange foliage; and heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*) whose leaves turn to gold, red, and orange. There are other plants that have fall color. Check with your local nursery for plants that do well in your area. Another plant that adds color to the winter garden is our local California Holly (*Heteromeles arbutifolia)*. It is evergreen but bears many beautiful red berries in the winter.

STRAWBERRIES . . .

Yes, strawberry season is about to begin in Southern California. It runs from mid-November to June. The first-of-the-season berries receive the highest prices. A flat that sells for $6 in high season will sell for $30 in December. As it costs a farmer about $30,000 per acre to grow, harvest, and ship an acre of strawberries, it is understandable why early or very late production is desired. (Lettuce costs $10,000 per acre.) Even so, strawberries are the fourth largest money earning food crop in the state behind grapes, lettuce, and almonds. Since 1950, production in the state has increased twenty-fold. This is due to varieties developed by the University of California and state private breeders. Many of the varieties developed here are grown in Spain, the world's second largest grower of strawberries, and other counties throughout the world.

Everyone likes strawberries, and to have the best tasting ones remember to wash them under running water with the green caps on. Do not store them in cold places. Chemical compounds that produce most of the flavor are cold sensitive.

There are 12 species of strawberries (Fragaris) native to Europe, Asia, North America, and Chile. Most strawberries are grown for the fruit, but one species is popular in Southern California as a ground cover. (the fruit is insignificant.) The modern strawberry was developed by a Frenchman named Amedee Frezier. He brought the Chilean wild strawberry to France in 1711, and crossed it with wild Virginia strawberries to produce the ancestor of all modern strawberries (*F. ananassa*).

Now Is the Time...

A Cultural Calendar of Care from Our Affiliates, University of California Cooperative Extension, and *California GARDEN* Staff

AFRICAN VIOLETS
Barbara Conrad

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH for insects that may thrive on other plants or cut flowers in your home. African violets are sensitive to traveling insects that may not be visible to the naked eye. A magnifying glass is helpful if you suspect something is wrong with your plants. Try keeping violets in a room by themselves.

TO CHECK the growth of plants. Pots should be one-third the width of the plant. A smaller plant needs to be potted down. A larger plant needs to be potted up to the next size container. *Helen van Pelt Wilson's African Violet Book* describes it as a Atight shoe@!

TO TRANSPLANT always use fresh soil mix as nutrients diminish with age. The old soil may be tossed in your outdoor garden.

TO WATER African violets use only warm water, preferably distilled. Hot or cold water can be shocking to the plants.

BEGONIAS
Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CLEAN up all debrisCremove dead leaves and spent blooms.

TO WATER as needed.

TO PUT a top dressing of your favorite mulch around plants to replace any soil or mulch washed away by fall rains.

TO GIVE a light feeding several times a month to help the plants withstand any adverse conditions a little better.

TO SPRAY for mildew control.

TO ALLOW tuberous begonias to die back on their own, put aside and let rest but sprinkle occasionally.

TO BE VIGILANT for insects; spray for mealybugs and other pests.

BONSAI
San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REDUCE watering, deciduous trees require just enough to keep them from drying out.

TO MOVE plants into shade if a hot spell occurs. Avoid a second growth period during this timeCit will weaken the trees.

TO REFRAIN from fertilizing or transplanting at this time.

TO KEEP deciduous trees protected from sudden changes of temperature.

TO REMOVE any old leaves, fruit, or seeds from deciduous trees.

TO PRUNE black pines by cutting the candles about half length.

TO GRAFT conifers in December.

BROMELIADS
Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO STOP fertilizing during fall and winter months, except those that are kept in a greenhouse.

TO REDUCE the frequency of watering when weather turns cooler.

TO PROTECT your plants from hail damage during the rainy season by providing overhead protection such as shade cloth that will allow plenty of light.

TO PROTECT plants from freezing temperatures by covering with sheets of newspaper.

TO KEEP plants clean by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves with scissors.

TO SPACE plants apart to allow air circulation. This helps to prevent scale.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS
Joseph A. Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH your plants. Most cacti and succulents have

a dormancy period. Depending on the weather, many winter growers may start early growing.

TO FERTILIZE the plants that are actively growing.

TO WATER only in the morning on a day that is going to be warm. By doing this, no standing water will be on plants in the evening.

TO PROTECT tender plants from excessive cold and winter rains. Repair cracks and leaks in shelters before the rains arrive.

TO KEEP ants under control; they transport aphids and mealybugs.

TO REMEMBER that the growth of fungi and bacteria can be fostered when plants become too cold during the cold evenings.

TO START looking for winter growing succulents to add as an extra dimension to your collection.

TO CLEAN up your plants' growing area.

CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SUPPLEMENT the rain with deep watering as the roots are growing vigorously.

TO MAKE root cuttings of Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*). There are good directions for this in September-October 2001 issue of *California Garden.*

TO SOW seed for spring blooming wild flowers. Continue sowing seeds over the next two months in order to prolong the bloom.

TO MULCH your beds with leaf drop as long as the leaves are not infested with insects. Do not remove the leaf litter under oaks as it helps to keep the roots cool as well as enriching the soil.

TO CONTINUE to plant your newly purchased natives into the ground. Keep in mind the ultimate growth and do not plant your natives too close together.

CAMELLIAS

Jay Vermilya

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED monthly (Sept-Jan) with a 2-10-10 or 0-10-10 fertilizer to encourage bud development.

TO CONTINUE disbudding if larger but fewer blooms are desired.

TO PICK up all old blooms to prevent petal blight.

TO ENCOURAGE dark green leaves by feeding an iron supplement.

TO SPRAY if necessary for mites (miticide) and worms (malathion). Alternatively, Orthene can be used for either.

TO KEEP a regular watering schedule, never let a plant dry outCmaintain an even, moist, but not wet, condition.

TO PRUNE selectively to ensure buds have room to open without interference.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WITHHOLD water and fertilizer to let the plants go dormant.

TO ALLOW plants to dryCwhen brown about 12-inches from ground, cut off the stalk.

TO LEAVE tubers in the ground to harden off if there is good drainage. Otherwise lift roots before the heavy rains.

TO WASH clumps after digging, let dry a few hours before storing. If dividing tubers, treat cut area with soil sulfur, store in vermiculite, sand, or other medium. Store out of the weather. Be sure tubers are tagged before storing.

EPIPHYLLUMS

San Diego Epiphyllum Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WITHHOLD fertilizer, especially one with nitrogen. Allow the plants to become semi-dormant.

TO WATER sparingly, but do not allow plants to dry out completely.

TO PROTECT plants from exposure to the elements. Frost, hail, and strong winds can cause irreversible damage. Overexposure to harsh winter sunlight can be as detrimental as hot summer sun.

TO TIE or stake long branches so they will not break when winds and rain arrive.

TO CHECK for snails and slugs; a few granules of Sluggeta at the base of the plant are often effective and leave little to no residue.

TO MAINTAIN good grooming and prune out nonproductive branches to conserve plant energy.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK containers to ensure planting mix has not completely broken down; add more mix to containers that need it.

TO BE ALERT for insects. Slugs and snails are very active.

TO WATER if it does not rain. Check plants not reached by rain.

TO APPLY a weak fertilizer solution once more before the December rest period.

TO PLANT spores and keep in a warm area.

TO CLEAN out weeds, oxalis, and debris from pots.

TO PROTECT plants at night in frost areas. Cover with newspaper or old sheets or place in garage.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRUNE deciduous trees and vines after their foliage has dropped. Wait until early spring to prune evergreens.

TO SPRAY dormant deciduous trees and vines with horticultural oil to kill scale, insects, spider mites, and other over-wintering pests.

TO SPRAY peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide such as lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide) to control leaf curl.

TO ORDER bare-root trees and vines to plant in December or January.

TO PROVIDE frost protection for young citrus and other subtropical fruit trees.

FUCHSIAS

William Selby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ALLOW plants to rest; reduce or stop fertilizing.

TO DO heavy pruning in mild areas or in a greenhouse; can make cuttings if a good tip available.

TO CLEAN up. Remove all dead leaves, blossoms, and debris from pots and baskets and around plants in the ground.

TO WATCH for insects, molds, and fungi in warmer areas.

TO MULCH plants left outside in areas where there is danger of frost; move baskets under cover for protection.

GREEN THUMB

Editorial Staff

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED bird of paradise. Cut out dead growth from clumps to improve appearance.

TO PLANT bulbs for spring bloomsCdaffodils, narcissus, ranunculus, anemones, scillas, callas, tulips, and hyacinths.

TO PRUNE and shape holly and pyracantha when cutting berries for holiday decorations.

TO APPLY dormant spray in December to control pests and disease next year; to use snail and slug bait regularly.

TO ENRICH your soil, prepare now for bare-root planting in late December and January.

HERBS

John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SEED calendula, borage, nasturtium, and chickweed directly in the ground.

TO PLANT garlic and saffron bulbs.

TO LANDSCAPE with native medicinal plants including elderberry, white sage, black sage, sagebrush, yerba mansa, mugwort, and wild rose.

TO DRY leaves of bay, basil, lemongrass, ginkgo, oregano, and sage.

TO COLLECT chaste berries, coriander seed, and fennel seed.

TO COOK holiday meals using lavender, bay, juniper, artemisia, rosemary, and rose hips.

TO CREATE herbal gifts such as tea blends, vinaigrettes, and live herb baskets.

IRIS

San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CLEAN beds of dead leaves and weeds; aphids winter-over in debris-filled areas.

TO SPRAY for aphids or give a light feeding of a systemic to control all sucking plant pests.

TO MAKE a final planting of bearded types, spurias, Louisianas, and Siberians.

TO PLANT bulbous type irisCDutch, English, and Spanish for spring bloom.

TO MOVE and replant Pacific Coast natives in late December when the little white roots are showing. Water well until they are established.

ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED a dilute solution of (25%) of 30-20-20 fertilizer each regular watering to *Oncidium*, *Brassidium*, and *Miltonia* hybrids planted in bark. If grown in an inorganic medium, then use 18-18-18. Rates given are guidelines and may be adjusted as needed for various mineral supplements. *Cymbidiums* get a 30-20-20 fertilizer (Adjust as above). Feed *Cattleyas* a 25% solution of 18-18-18 regularly or full strength every 3-4 waterings.

TO PROTECT *Cymbidium* buds and flowers from hail, rain, or sun damage. Once a spike starts do not rotate plants.

TO REPOT *Cattleya* if in active new growth and growing out of the pot. Otherwise, wait until a warmer time. Some yellow hybrids require repotting when dormant.

TO LET deciduous *Dendrobiums* go dormant. Stop feeding when leaves drop. Start feeding and watering in spring with 18-18-18 when buds start to swell. Flower buds should develop during last part of dormancy.

TO CLEAN up old leaves, flowers, and other Atrash@ in growing areas. Remove and store shade cloth. Clean and check all parts of swamp coolers, humidifier, heaters, and fans.

PELARGONIUMS (GERANIUMS)

Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Watering will not need to be done as often as in the warmer seasons. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep the foliage as dry as possible.

TO CONTINUE feeding as needed. Do not allow plants to show prolonged signs of nutritional deficiencies. Use a balanced fertilizer that can be dissolved in water. Soilless mixes need fertilizer containing micronutrients.

TO CONTINUE a pest control and disease prevention program, using all products according to the manufacturers' direction.

TO PRUNE any plants that have not been cut back. At least one green leaf should remain on every stem of regals, scenteds, and similar types. Lanky plants that were pruned in the fall can be cut again to produce compact plants.

TO PINCH the rest of the plants that were pruned in the fall.

TO MAKE cuttings from the prunings. Shelter cuttings from extreme temperatures. They will root faster in a warm location.

TO GIVE plants temporary shelter if the temperature approaches freezing.

TO ROTATE plants on a regular basis in order to keep them well shaped.

PLUMERIA

Southern California Plumeria Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PREPARE your plumerias for winter.

TO GIVE LAST FEEDING of high phosphorous fertilizer. Hold back nitrogen, e.g., 6-20-20 or 10-60-10.

TO GIVE FINAL GROOMING by removing dead flowers and leaves from the branches and base of plant.

TO CHECK for overwintering insects and take necessary action.

TO PROTECT from cold and wet environment.

TO REDUCE watering volume with the onset of cold weather and loss of foliage.

TO POSTPONE transplanting and taking cuttings until spring.

ROSES

Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO RENOVATE your rose garden by deep-digging the area around individual bushes and incorporating organic amendments prior to fall rains. Remove roots of trees and shrubs that have been robbing your plants of water and nutrients.

TO PREPARE list of replacement and/or new varieties you wish to purchase from lists of incoming bare-root plants available at your local nurseries. If you have limited space, you may wish to put off purchasing newly introduced varieties until they have been grown in your locale.

TO ENJOY fall blooms that are frequently outstanding

depending on weather conditions.

TO REDUCE amount of water but do not allow bushes to become too dry if fall rains do not occur.

TO REMOVE bushes no longer producing. Prepare new planting holes by adding amendments and superphosphate to existing soil to give bare-root roses a good growing medium.

TO PRUNE floribundas in late December but delay pruning hybrid teas until buds begin to swell in January or early February. Consult rosarians in your locale for best date.

TO CLEAN up entire rose bed and dormant spray once before pruning and again after pruning before buds leaf out.

TO PREPARE for pruning by checking your equipment. Proper equipment, clean and sharp, will make the job easier. Don't forget the gloves and knee pads.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMOVE and compost warm-season vegetables to prevent pests and diseases from overwintering on them.

TO CONTINUE planting cool-season vegetables that will not be subject to frost injury.

TO PLANT seeds of short-day onions, such as >Grano=, >Granex=, or >Crystal Wax=, and garlic cloves in November for bulbs next summer.

TO PLANT dormant crowns of artichoke, asparagus, and rhubarb. To avoid crown rot of rhubarb, plant crowns in containers filled with porous potting soil and transplant into garden where drainage is good after several leaves have developed.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower C California natives, cineraria, columbine, fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), garden stock (*Matthiola incana*), hollyhock, Iceland poppy, ornamental kale, pansy, pink sand verbena, pot marigold (*Calendula*), snapdragon, and viola.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beets, carrots, chard, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion (green and dry), parsnips, spinach, and turnips C baby blue eyes, California natives, candytuft, Chinese forget-me-not (*Cynoglossum amabile*), forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*), lupine, sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*), spring flowering sweet pea, and Virginia stock (*Malcolmia maritima*).

WATER GARDENS

David Curtright

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CLEAN UP. At this time most of the plants in the pond are beginning to lose leaves, set seeds, and generally decline. As this happens, dead foliage and flowers should be kept out of the water so that they do not feed algae later. If you have lotus, remember not to cut the leaf stems below the water line.

TO FREE Louisiana irises from the summer overgrowth of other plants so that they can put on their new leaves as we go into fall.

TO BE ALERT for moth larvae eating your bog plants and lilies.

TO WATCH for and encourage hawthorns that are beginning to reappear.

San Diego Horticultural Society

Meetings 2nd Monday of every month, 6:30pm

Free Admission – Everyone Welcome!

Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.

Join us for a guest speaker, plant sales, plant display. Meetings are open to all. Membership brings you:

- Monthly 26-page newsletter
- Trips to outstanding gardens
- Local garden tours
- Discounts at nurseries
- Seed & plant swap
- Video and book library
- Annual Garden Party
- and much more!

Upcoming Events & Meetings:

November 14: Designing with California Natives
Greg Rubin's enthusiasm for using our native plants is sure to excite you when he explains his easy-to-follow gardening techniques.

December 12: Early-Blooming Camellias
Learn about these elegant shrubs from camellia expert **Tom Nuccio**, who shares his expertise on camellias for your garden.

Available now: our hardcover, lavishly illustrated book, *Ornamental Trees of San Diego*, only $34.95

Info: www.sdhortsoc.org
or (760) 730-3268

San Diego Horticultural Society

BUTTERFLIES, BUTTERFLIES, WHEREFORE ART THOU?

Monarch on Buddleia in author's yard. Photo by Pat Pawlowski.

By Pat Pawlowski

Let's face it, we gardeners in Southern California are spoiled. We can pretty much garden year round; the only thing stopping us would be the rain that we most fervently welcome in order to (1) encourage growth of the native plant community and (2) discourage growth of the water bill.

But, for us would-be butterfly beholders, now is the winter of our discontent. We who look forward to the flash and flutter of lepidopteran wings are likely to get glum when faced with the fact that the peak butterfly period extends between March and November.

What to do?

First, we determine which species may actually spend the winter in the adult stage. Some people know (those who have been subjected to my butterfly articles in the past) that the butterfly cycle consists of egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and adult butterfly. The majority of species spend the winter just hanging out in the egg, caterpillar or chrysalis stage, waiting for things to heat up.

However, our most magnificent type of butterfly chooses just this relatively cold time of year to appear.

A MONARCH! A MONARCH!

The overwintering monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) with its stunning wings of orange and black can banish the butterfly blues. Our western population of monarchs, those that occur west of the rockies, spend the cooler months such as November, December, January, and February in hundreds of sites along the moderate, frostfree Pacific Coast.

If the temperature is warm enough, those individuals so inclined will sashay out from their eucalyptus enclaves to sip nectar from the flowers of blooming plants. They may very well visit your very own yard.

But how to get them there?

BE NOT AFRAID OF GREATNESS

First, bribe them with flowers. In addition to being the host plant for monarch caterpillars, the flowers of milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) provide nectar to adult monarchs. An outstanding variety is the ominous-sounding bloodflower milkweed, *A. curassavica*, with its orange and yellow flower heads. 'Silky Gold' is a yellow-hued variety.

Other floral nectar sources include lantana (*Lantana* spp.), citrus (*Citrus* spp.), pentas (*Pentas lanceolata*), sages (*Salvia* spp.), and many plants in the aster family such as zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*), coreopsis (*Coreopsis* spp.), coneflowers (*Rudbeckia and Echinacea* spp.), and wonder of Stafa (*Aster frikartii*).

However, since winter is when many of our native plants are at their blooming best, we'll concentrate on them. Another advantage is that most are drought tolerant. Here, then, are some Monarch favorites:

California wild lilac (*Ceanothus* spp.) - There are many varieties, and they range from subshrubs to tree forms. Flower colors range from white through blue through purple. Most look good year round. Some—but not all—are sensitive to overwatering.

Wallflower (*Erysimum concinnum*) - Short mat-forming perennial with yellow flowers which attracts many kinds of butterflies.

Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*) - Arching gray-green foliage with fuzzy purple and white flowers which are also beloved by hummingbirds.

California goldenrod (*Solidago californica*) - A showy low spreading perennial with golden yellow flowering stalks.

Winter currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) - Deciduous shrub with deep pink or red flowers. Berries feed birds. Hummingbirds visit blossoms.

Bush marigold (*Salvia lemmonii*) - Medium size evergreen shrub with glowing deep yellow daisylike flowers. Very drought tolerant. When in bloom, subject of question, "What is that gorgeous golden bush?"

Coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*) - Also called chaparral broom, it is a woody upright perennial and is very drought tolerant.

Mule fat (*Baccharis glutinosa*) - Willowy semi-deciduous shrub with rich green foliage. Although it blooms primarily in summer, it can flower year round if conditions are right. Flowers not showy but are nectar-rich. Unfortunately it is a water guzzler, but nobody is perfect. Plant it for the name.

Monarch on Cosmos (aster family). Photo by Gwen Cleary.

WHEREFORE ART THOSE NATIVE-PLANT-SELLING NURSERIES?

It's November and darn, you missed several great native plant sales held in October. However, don't despair; there are some alternatives:

Rancho Jojoba, centrally located off of Route 67 in Lakeside (619-561-0751) and (619-504-2017) has a large variety. If they don't have your plant in stock, they'll get it for you.

Las Pilitas Nursery in Escondido (760-749-5930).

Coastal Sage Gardening (619-223-5229) in San Diego is holding its annual plant sale on Jan. 8, 2006.

OTHER ENTICEMENTS

Blow, blow thou winter wind; my butterfly garden has a sunny sheltered area to make monarchs comfortable while they are sipping flower nectar.

In addition to shelter, monarchs need to take vitamins in the form of nutrient-rich salts, minerals and nitrogen compounds. These can be found in various places, among them:

(1) Urine - If you have a Fido or Fidette, realize that their effusions may help butterflies. If you don't have a dog, you can improvise, or provide:

(2) Cow sweat - Monarchs have been observed alighting on cattle to partake of their perspiration. If you insist on being uncooperative and are unwilling to install a herd of cattle in the yard, at least you can offer:

(3) Muddy areas - The water in puddles evaporates, leaving behind salts and minerals in the mud. Leave a small portion of your yard bare, dig a hole, put in a large plastic tub or rubber liner and fill it with clay soil. Throw some water over the clay to make it nice and gooey.

THE COURSE OF TRUE LOVE NEVER DID RUN SMOOTHLY

Despite all the above suggestions to beckon monarchs, there is a chance that you may not see *Danaus plexippus* in your yard. It is good to realize that your efforts will not have been in vain since the delightful ambiance and plant offerings you provide will attract other customers. Yond hummingbirds, for instance, have a lean and hungry look. They will happily patronize many of your blooming plants, as will other creatures. *continued on page 15*

BUTTERFLIES

COME, LET'S AWAY TO . . .

A field trip may help to cure the winter-engendered no-butterfly blahs: Consider an excursion to the Monarch Program's vivarium, a 1,200 square foot butterfly house located in the wilds of Encinitas. Winter hours are limited, so it is best to visit www.monarchprogram.org or call 760-944-7113 to arrange a visit.

Another option is to journey to selected monarch butterfly sites. There are some overwintering sites in San Diego County such as the UCSD campus and Presidio Park. There are also many butterfly areas north of San Diego County. However, it is best to consult the Monarch Program's website or office to get an update on monarch activity.

Also remember that we must take care to protect our wild ares from overdevelopment (Lord, what fools these mortals be!), or the only butterflies we see will be ones printed on tee-shirts.

If all goes well and you make the effort, one way or the other, you'll meet a monarch or two or three hundred this winter. Then when spring rolls around and you see that last monarch take off towards other locales, you can say, in all honesty, that this was the noblest butterfly of them all.

Monarch butterfly and caterpillar in author's house. Photo by Pat Pawlowski.

Fire Safety Garden Open

The Quail Botanical Garden's *Landscape for Fire Safety Garden* reopened on October 1, 1005. The garden shows how to create fire-safe landscapes and contains 1,000 fire-resistant plants that have high water retention, provide less fuel in fires, contain no oil, and leave small amounts of litter in the yard. Among them are:

Succulents: aloe, jade, sticks on fire, African baby toes, tiger jaws, red yucca, Indian fig cactus, prickly pear, starfish flower, and agave.

Trees: loquat, flame, peppermint, orange, lemon, carob, Australian willow, California black walnut, ponytail palm, olive, and coast live oak.

Shrubs: oleander, quail saltbush, manzanita, bottle brush, California lilac, white rock rose, coast sunflower, poinsettia, pomegranate, toyon, English lavender, India hawthorn, and lemonade berry.

Perennials: bird of paradise, kangaroo paw, beach evening primrose, sea dahlia, coastal buckwheat, daffodil, bear grass, and society garlic.

Flowers: California poppy, swan daisy, and some roses.

Ground covers: ice plant, sage brush, ground morning glory, California fuchsia, ivy geranium, trailing rosemary, and thyme.

Ecological Zones of San Diego County

By Sandy Yayanos
Habitat Steward, National Wildlife Federation, San Diego County

Traveling east from the coast to the Imperial County offers a chance to explore the diverse ecological zones of San Diego County. The coastal terraces and mountains that separate the coast from the desert produce a rain shadow that helps to create this dramatic diversity. Rainfall and temperature can vary considerably from west to east. Our westerly winds are packed with moisture from the ocean. This moisture helps minimize the coastal temperature fluctuation. Then when this moisture laden air hits mountains of the Peninsular Range it rises and cools, causing the moisture to fall as precipitation. On the leeward side of the mountains the air is now devoid of moisture creating desert conditions.

More than 6,700 species of plants and animals have been identified in the diverse habitats of the county and many of these are endemic species. As a result we have more species at risk of extinction than elsewhere in the continental United States.

There are 10 major plant communities in the county with one often blending into another. Some are quite intact and others have almost disappeared from urbanization. All have the presence of alien species.

COSTAL SAND DUNE COMMUNITIES

Unfortunately, very little of this habitat is still found on our coast having been replaced by urban development. Pockets around the protected areas of lagoons have sand verbena (Abronia umbellate) and salt bush (Atriplex lentiformis). Small leaves, low spreading growth and salt tolerance characterize most of these plants.

SALT MARSHES AND MUDFLATS

This is a favorite area of bird watchers and hikers as there is usually a lot of wildlife to observe. San Diego has recorded over 475 species of birds with over 319 of these species in and around the lagoons. California is on the Pacific Flyway so many of these birds are just passing through or are part time residents. An array of food is found in the water (both fresh and salt), mudflats and the drier areas around the marshes. Under the water is a nursery for many fishes and invertebrates. This is one of the most endangered habitats in the world.

A constant change in water levels may stress plants and animals from fluctuation in salt and oxygen concentrations, and temperature. Many plants are salt tolerant (halophytes). Species commonly found are pickle weed (Salicornia sps.) salt grass (Distichlis spicata), alkali heath (Frankenia galena), sea lavender (Limonium californicum), salty susan (Jaumea carnosa) and shore grass (Monanthochloe littoralis).
This habitat needs to be visited monthly and at high and low tide to see the tremendous change in bird populations.

COASTAL SAGE SCRUB

Ascend the marine terraces especially on the south and tops and notice that the soil has a little more organic matter and the wind has somewhat abated, but it is still semi arid. Plants are modified to survive high light intensity and low moisture. Small gray-green leaves, waxy coatings (cutin), leaf curling are common adaptations. With just 10-20 inches of rainfall mainly in winter many plants are drought deciduous which means the leaves are dropped during dry spells or during our summer months. Black sage (Salvia mellifera), sagebrush (Artemisia californica), flat top buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum), coyote bush (Baccharis pilularis), laurel sumac (Malosma laurina) and bush sunflower (Encelia californica) are good indicator species of the coast sage scrub also called soft chaparral.

CHAPARRAL

Chaparral is found on north slopes near the coast and inland to about 4000 feet and where

continued on page 17

rainfall is from 14-25 inches. The leaves of plants are broader, the stems or trunks are woody and the plants grow taller. Chaparral can be difficult to walk through in undisturbed areas but it is quite rich in wildlife. Roots of some of these plants can be incredibly deep to tap moisture from winter rains. The plant adaptations seen in sage scrub can also be found here. Indicator species include manzanita (Arctostaphlos and Xylococcus sps.) California lilac (Ceanothus sps.) toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia), lemonade berry and sugar bush (Rhus intregrifolia and R. ovata), scrub oak (Quercus dumosa). Many plants in the chaparral need fire to reproduce.

RIPARIAN

Water sheds or the drainage areas between hills and mountains will often have intermittent streams or rivers. Since ground water is close to the surface, larger trees like western sycamore (Platanus racemosa), willows (Salix sps.), and Fremont cottonwood (Populus fremontii), Mexican elderberry (Sambucus mexicana) are found. Mule fat (Baccharis glutinosa), cattails (Typha sp.) and spiny rushes (Juncus acutus) flourish around the edges of water. Birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects abound in these areas.

OAK WOODLANDS

Foothills and valleys above 3,500 feet may host 20-60 foot oak trees mainly live and Engelmann oaks (Quercus agrifolia and Q. engelmannii). These are generally mild winter areas with 15-25 inches of rain but with summers warmer than at the coast. Ground water is usually available for the trees to tap.

VALLEY GRASSLANDS

Where the soil is deep and more porous ground water becomes unavailable to trees. This results in our grasslands. Unfortunately many of the native grasses have been replaced with introduced species. Look for grasslands to be interspersed in areas around the oak woodlands.

YELLOW PINE FOREST

Above 4,000 feet the growing season is shorter but the yearly precipitation increases to 30-47 inches. Snow can briefly blanket the area in winter and summers are quite mild from 75-85 degrees. Trees may reach 100 feet and include pines (Pinus coulteri, P. jeffreyi, P. ponderosa), black oak (Quercus kelloggii) and big cone spruce (Pseudotsuga macrocarpa). Deer, mountain lions and bobcats still roam the area. Look for woodpeckers.

JUNIPER SCRUB

As the mountains are crossed the yearly rainfall diminishes and temperatures rise, thus the plant size is reduced. Indicator species include California juniper (Juniperus californica), scrub oak (Quercus turbinella) and pinyon pines (Pinus quadrifolia and P.monophylla). This area is also referred to as a hot steppe.

DESERT

This desert is hot during the day and cold at night and with less than 10 inches of rain a year. Soil is poor in organic material. Many plants are widely spaced appearing to be uniformly planted. But competition for water and the production of allopathic chemicals by many plants keep plants from close contact. Of course expect to see cacti but also creosote bush (Larrea tridentata), Ocotillo (Forequieria splendens), brittle bush (Encelia farinosa) and desert agave (Agave deserti) are very common. Winter rains if sufficient can produce a wild flower show not to be missed. Look for bighorn sheep.

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From the History Files...

GEOR GE P. HALL

When George Hall became affiliated with the Floral Association, he was the former chairman of the California State Board of Agriculture, and he wrote a column on agriculture for *The San Diego Union*. He was in his seventies but active with the "Little Landers," a group of people who settled in San Ysidro beside the Tia Juana River. They were part of the back-to-the-land movement, but they believed that a family could be self-sufficient if they intensively farmed an acre of land near a city. When he started to write for *California Garden*, he was a recognized authority on growing food plants in Southern California. At that time, many urban San Diegans had small food-producing gardens. He wrote monthly articles until his death. The Floral Association published a soft-cover booklet written by him on growing vegetables.

LITTLE LANDERS

From 1909 until 1916, the Little Landers colony flourished in the Tia Juana River valley in San Ysidro, 14 miles south of San Diego. They were part of the twentieth century back-to-the-land movement, but they believed that with intensive farming, renewal of the soil, and proper irrigation a family could be self-sufficient on an acre of land. (San Ysidro was the name of the original Spanish Land Grant.) This proved to be true. Even though many of the colonists were in their sixties, they were able to pay off their mortgages within three or four years. Excess produce was first sold from a truck on the streets of San Diego and later from a colony store at 6th and B Streets. Even though the colonists were invaded by refugees from the Mexican Revolution of 1911 and robbed in the following bandit raids, the colony flourished until 1916. That was the year of the huge Hatfield Flood. (The Hatfields were hired by the city to make rain.) The valley was flooded, homes were destroyed, and the irrigation systems and soil were lost.

California Garden magazine has an illustrious past.

Alfred D. Robiinson, the founder and first president of the San Diego Floral Association, started the organization in 1907 and the magazine in 1909. He served as its editor for the first 10 years. He was a noted horticulturist and begonia grower, a contemporary of Kate Sessions (also one of the founders). Robinson introduced the use of "lath houses" for growing begonias, ferns, and other shade plants. He proposed the construction of a large lath house for the Panamna-California Exposition in 1915. That building is now the Botanical Building situated just behind the lily pond off the Prado in Balboa Park. A bronze plaque was recently installed in the entrance to the Botanical Building in his memory.

There have been other notable editors, including Roland K. Hoyt, in whose name a scholarship is awarded annually. Hoyt was the landscape architect for numerous San Diego public projects, including Mission Bay Park.

A complete file of the magazine is available in the Floral Association's library in Room 105 of Casa del Prado in Balboa Park, along with a large horticultural library of more than 3,500 volumes. The Web site, **www.sdfloral.org** (currently being renovated), presents some of the organization's history and activites.

December Nights

The History of Christmas on the Prado

By Kay Harry with Barbara Jones

The San Diego Floral Association presented their first Holiday Flower Show in 1907 as their gift to the community. They considered the effort as part of their mission to educate San Diego residents about the species of horticulture that would best thrive in our climate. Six months later they gave another show, the Fall Flower Show. These were followed by yearly spring and fall shows. At first only plants, cut flowers and branches were exhibited. Then classes were held for decorative baskets. In 1920, table designs were added to the display and were greatly admired by the visitors. By the 1920's, flowers arranged in vases and bowls were shown. These were exhibits where visitors could gather ideas for home decorations and about new plants.

In 1922, the Floral Association moved into their new home in Balboa Park. The Floral Associaton was the first group to be given space in the park. In addition to the two large annual shows, Floral began giving smaller shows dedicated to one type of plant. In 1927, Floral moved from the Floral Building (which is now occupied by the United Nations) to Casa del Prado. The city required that all residents of the building give at least one show/exhibit per year, open to the public without a fee being charged. Floral chose the first week in December and gave its first Christmas Flower Show. In addition to Christmas displays, Floral's shows have always showcased the end-of-the-year celebrations of various ethnic and religious cultures.

In 1979, the museums along the Prado planned an event, "Christmas on the Prado," with the museums along the Prado participating with free admission and special displays. Gift shop items and food was to be sold to defray the expenses of the event and raise money for the organizations. Floral joined in and changed the hours to adjust with the event. This would be Floral's seventh year giving a December flower show. Beverly Kulot had started craft workshops that met throughout the year to create holiday items to be sold at the show. Members made hundreds of chocolate chip cookies. One year, decorated gingerbread men were made and were an instant success. Cookie makers tired out the following year, but a culinary school agreed to produce gingerbread men. These were such a great hit that the number had to be increased each year, and when the culinary school closed they were replaced by Vootman Bakery. This is a commercial source that continues to supply gingerbread cookies to this day. People search for the "cookie table" every year for their "gingerbread fix."

At first, Floral members did the floral arrangements helped by the Village of La Jolla Garden Club. Point Loma Garden Club members decorated many tables. In 1990, Floral would design Room 101 using a new concept discovered by Barbara Jones on a trip to Washington, D.C. and the National Arboretum. She returned to the Floral Board with the suggestion that the group present a room filled with decorated trees. Barbara, who was chairing the show, invited the garden clubs and plant societies to enter a decorated, live tree that would cost their group $9. The Village of La Jolla and Point Loma decorated trees, as did Ikebana International, Chula Vista, and Bonita Garden Clubs. Camilla, rose, orchid, fushia, and African violet societies trimmed trees with beautiful blossoms from their gardens. Cacti, herb, and fern societies entered exhibits. Floral designed a special tree for the stage. This was an exciting new procedure for the group, and they were delighted that their efforts were so well received by the public.

Soon a group of flower designers, the Floral Guild, a part of San Diego Floral Association, began to participate in Christmas on the Prado by

providing flowers arranged in specific designs and in a variety of containers as part of an overall theme. Their designs have become a regular and much-enjoyed part of the display in Room 101.

Protea blooms, which were relatively new to many of the visitors, were of great interest in those days. Floral purchased and sold the blooms to help finance the show. Members like Marie Walsh and Lynn Beyerle have kept this venue going because many guests make this the place for their protea holiday shopping. Poinsettias were also sold.

Chairing the decor for Room 101 was a huge undertaking, but Floral members like Skipper Cope, Jo Westheim, Virginia Firth, Glen Hough, JoAnn Gould , Marie and Kathy Walsh, to name a few, continued to make the event a highlight of the season.

As years passed, some of the usual participants withdrew because of low participation of their group members and transportation problems. Some fresh ideas were thought to be necessary, and a committee of six newer Floral members rose to the challenge. Kathy Taylor de Murillo, Kay Harry, Carvill Veech, Sarah Beers, Geri Hoffner, and Lynn Beyerle redesigned the plan to feature vignettes which included a mantel, a decorated tree, and a table design. The garden clubs and plant societies accepted the new challenge and chose to do part of or an entire vignette. Themes through the next few years were: The Joy of Children's Books; Holidays Around the World; The Museums of Balboa Park; Communities of our County; Favorite Fairy Tales; and Pastel Panorama. Faithful contributors to the event have been the following garden clubs: Village of La Jolla; Bonita; Point Loma; Dos Valles; Poway; Mission Hills; Chula Vista; and La Jolla. The Herb and Geranium Club, Fern, Rose, Camillia, Cymbidium, and Violet Societies are faithful contributors. Hon Non Bo and the Japanese Friendship Garden also participate. Any plant society or garden club in the county is welcome to be part of the show by contacting the Floral office.

Walter Andersen and Mission Hills Nursery were invited to be part of the event, with Andersen creating an incredible display at the show entry and Mission Hills decorating the stage. Andersen continues to participate every year, and Mission Hills loans plant material for the stage.

In 2002, the name of the event was changed from "Christmas on the Prado" to "December Nights." Many of the venues were no longer near the Prado, because the activities had increased along with the crowds to extend throughout the park. In 2004, because of the expenses incurred due to new rules covering security, the committee was no longer able to sponsor the event. It is now sponsored by the city. Outside sponsors provide part of the funding to make the event possible.

For the past 33 years, it has been Floral's privilege and joy to create a room of beauty for the thousands of guests who visit the December Nights community celebrations. We hope to be part of the tradition for many years to come.

Please join us this year on December 2 and 3 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Room 101 of the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park for December Nights 2005!

Interested in a Tax Deduction?

Did you know that the San Diego Floral Association is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation? Donations to the organization can be made through the United Way and may be deducted as provided in the Internal Revenue Code. Many employers match contributions made through the United Way. Won't you consider a tax-deductible gift today?

My Favorite Gardening Books

By Connie Beck

My favorite gardening books are not the "how to" books, although I can't imagine life without Hortus and my Sunset Western Garden Bible. My favorite books are the ones in which I feel like I am communing with other people who love to garden and have shared the same thrills and disappointments I have. I may never laugh again as hard as I did when I first read an article by Christopher Lloyd, famous gardener at Great Dixter in England, who commented that "gardening consists of eleven months of backbreaking work followed by one month of excruciating disappointment."

First on my list of gardening soulmates is Elizabeth Von Arnim, who wrote her thinly disguised auto-biography as a young English woman married to a German baron (the "Man of Wrath") on his estate in Germany in the 1890s. Her recalcitrant gardening staff thought Elizabeth should stay indoors and do needlework, but Elizabeth wanted flowers and roses. The "Man of Wrath," who didn't care for flowers at all, made her buy them out of her clothing allowance. She could well foresee the day when she would not only stop buying new clothes but would start selling her old ones in order to acquire more roses. Bound by society dictates of what was permissable at the time, Elizabeth said, "I wish with all my heart that I were a man, for of course the first thing I would do would be to buy a spade and go and garden. . . ." This delightful book is called ***Elizabeth and Her German Garden*** (Virago Modern Classics, ISBN 0 86068 423 7).

Another fun book is ***French Dirt*** by Richard Goodman (Harper Perennial, Harper Collins, ISBN 0 06 097505 9), which details his romantic desire to create a typical French garden. His opening lines warn of what is to come: "I had a garden in the south of France. It wasn't a big garden. Or a sumptuous one. Or a successful one, even, in the end." After months of pouring his heart and sweat into his garden, the final comment from the village was that he "hadn't done too badly. For an American."

> ***"...he hadn't done too badly. For an American."***

I loved the opinionated essays of the irascible Henry Mitchell in his book ***The Essential Earthman*** (Indiana University Press, ISBN 0 253 17436 8) so much that I inadvertently bought two copies of it! Although he is an eastern gardener, his crotchety commentaries are a delight no matter where you live and garden. A typical quote: "Flowering trees are usually a snare and a delusion, like those people you meet at cocktail parties who seem so glamourous and exciting and whom, after the third time, you hope never to see again."

Margery Fish wrote of the trials and tribulations of gardening with her husband in ***We Made a Garden*** (Faber and Faber, ISBN 0 571 13141 7). Her very gentle but piercing comments lead one to believe he had more opinions about how the garden should be organized and maintained than she cared to hear.

For half an hour of inspiration I recommend ***The Man Who Planted Trees*** by Jean Giono (Chelsea Green, ISBN 0 930031 06 7), a fictional biography of a peasant who created a whole village by planting trees in a wasteland after World War I.

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein (Harper and Row, ISBN 0-06025-6656) is a children's book that I have never been able to read without ending up in tears. If more people heard this story or read this book when they were children, surely we would not see the devastation caused by the heartless and murderous tree hackers who practice arboricide

in our communities today and dare to call it "pruning."

Felder Rushing is a lot of fun to listen to, as those who heard his presentation at the San Diego Horticultural Society last spring can attest. It seems that opinionated gardeners are the most fun to read as well, so I recommend ***Passalong Plants*** (University of North Carolina Press, ISBN 0 8078 4418 7), which he co-authored with Steve Bender. All plants therein described are good old garden plants that are "passalongs," because they are easy to grow and propagate. The authors have included personal life stories about who gave them the plant, where they first saw notable examples, and so forth. This book is a lot like having coffee with a chatty gardener who has lots of funny stories to share.

I like to keep a book of gardening quotes by my bedside. ***The Gardener's Quotation Book*** by Jennifer Taylor (Barnes and Noble Books, ISBN 0 88029 882 0) and ***The Literary Gardener*** by Walter Chandoha (Willow Creek Press, ISBN 1 57223 083 5) are two good ones. Chuckling at the wry comments of a kindred spirit is always a good way to drift off to dreams of glorious gardens.

Connie Beck is an organic gardening instructor and landscape designer specializing in habitat and low water use gardens. Contact her at holisticgardener@hotmail.com.

WHEN YOU PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS, PLEASE LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU FOUND THEM IN *CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAGAZINE*

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The Writings of Guy Fleming

The Torrey Pines Docent Society's newest publicaton is *Guy Fleming's Writings and Related Articles*. In the years 1915 through 1956, Guy Fleming contributed articles for publication in the San Diego Floral Association's magazine, *California Garden*. Fleming wrote about Torrey Pines State Reserve, its history, efforts to save it, and plans for the future. He paints a word picture of the spring flower bloom and describes the role played by the Natural History Museum and the San Diego Floral Association in developing the area.

One section of reports is called "Californians Abroad," in which he explains how some plant species native to our area are now thriving in other parts of the state, country, and the world. Another series is called "Wanderings." As he wandered about the county, he wrote accounts describing the geography and plant life.

Occasionally he would write a seasonal article, such as "The Mysterious Mistletow," or "Christmas Green." The "Related Articles" portion includes articles by A.D. Robinson, Lena Hunzicker, Robert Mansfield, and Lila Fleming.

Fans of Guy Fleming will enjoy traveling with him in his appreciation for nature's beauty and his efforts to preserve and protect what he observed.

Guy Fleming's Writings and Related Articles

❑ $13.00 members (book, tax, mailing)
❑ $15.00 nonmembers (book, tax, mailing)
($10 or $12 if picked up, tax included)

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BUY THE BEST!

The Kate Sessions Collection

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 through 1939 is available at the San Diego Floral Association in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. This book contains a plant index and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific. Widely known as the "Mother of Balboa Park," Kate Sessions devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful polants in San Diego. In this book, she relates her how she beautified San Diego.

Roland Hoyt Reprint

Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions by Roland Stewart Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. Untl now, this book has been available only at rare book stores. His sons, Bill and Mike, have donated the new books to the San Diego Floral Association. Ten dollars of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt.

Half the book is a written description and sketch of each plant. In recent years, many scientific names have been changed, but there is an updated nomenclature at the end of the book.

The Complete Writings of Kate Sessions 1909–1939

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Thank You to Writers and Editors

By Jacqueline Coleman

I would like to express my appreciation to **all** those who have contributed to *California Garden* over my years here. There is a danger of leaving out someone when naming names, but I will live dangerously.

Barbara Jones taught me everything I might claim to know about the WordPerfect program. She has been of great help during all my years here. In addition, she has been writing and editing and otherwise involved in promoting the San Diego Floral Association since 1968.

Next in tenure is Betty Newton. She has been contributing nearly steadily since 1987. Following in longevity with us, since 1988, is Robert Horwitz, the traveling gardener.

Mort Brigadier came on board in 1991 to write fitfully, and some might say frighteningly. Starting in 1996, Pat Pawlowski has contributed to almost every issue. Her devotion to organics, butterflies, birds, California natives, and charming humor have made her a favorite.

One who wrote for a time and also took on other work for the San Diego Floral Association for about fifteen years is Mary Jordan. Unfortunately, Jean E. Johns had to move to Florida a few years ago after being treasurer of the association and editor of "Horticultural Calendar."

I hope I haven't shortchanged anyone in noting their years of contribution. To reiterate, I'm sorry if someone feels they should have been included by name and lost out. You will come to mind someday when I am not having a senior moment.

WANTED: WRITERS FOR *CALIFORNIA GARDEN*

The San Diego Floral Association is looking for freelance volunteer writers for its magazine, *California Garden*. Writers should be familiar with floral and gardening issues and be able to meet bi-monthly deadlines. For more information, contact the Floral office at 619-232-5762 or send a message to editor@sdfloral.org.

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www.arboretum.harvard.edu/programs/views/intro.html

About Agave

By Robert Horwitz

This amazing plant is a native of our area, the Gulf of California, and some western parts of the Caribbean. It is a dramatic plant of many species, all of which have very similar leaf shapes and colors. Most of the leaves have spiney edges that can penetrate flesh very easily.

The larger thed species, the longer it will take to flower. The time varies from five to forty years depending on the site. the flowers appear on the crest of an outstanding flower stalk coming from the center of the leaves. These stalks on the larger plants can reach up to twelve feet. After blooming, the mother plant slowly dies along with the stalk. The seeds fall around the area where the agave grew, and if there is sufficient moisture will start new plants. New plants will also grow stemming from the base of the main plant.

Care of the agave is minimal. Thus, it lends itself to gardens that need little water, and they grow happily in poor soil. for most of our garden areas, occasional watering during the summer will suffice if we have a normal winter rain.

The foliage comes in gray-green, green, striped yellow-green, and brownish green. The leaves, depending on the variety, grow from six inches to three feet long.

Over the years, men have found some uses for the sap obtained from the leaves. The ladies will be happy to know that cosmetics and lotions contain aloe, which is derived from the sap. The men will know that tequila is obtained from the fermentation of the sap.

You can see a good display in Balboa Park in and near the cactus gardens along Park Boulevard.

Agave in the author's garden. Photo by Robert Horwitz.

Forget the Poinsettia. Throw out that holly.
Bypass the evergreen.
Embellish your holiday decor with a red, green, white, or even a gold Bromeliad.

Bromeliads Go Home for the Holidays

Deck the halls with … Bromeliads? If festive and warm is what you want, decorate with Bromeliads this holiday season. Unlike traditional Poinsettias, easy going Bromeliads are versatile and long lasting enough to enjoy beyond the holiday season. And their vivid color can't be beat for cheerfully lighting up a room.

When it comes to indoor decorating, Bromeliads are better suited for indoor decorating than any other plant. These relatives of the pineapple require little maintenance, so if you get caught up in the pace of the season or everyday life you don't have to worry about wilting plants.

"Bromeliads are like goldfish—they don't require much. Just feed and water them once in a while, and they thrive. And they're phenomenal in low light areas, so they're perfect for interiors," says Dutch floral designer and educator René van Rems AIFD, founder of René van Rems International in Vista.

Out of about 3,000 species of Bromeliad, there are more than 100 varieties available for the home and garden at retail stores and garden centers. *Guzmania* is one of the most popular, according to Kent's Bromeliad Nursery of Vista. "*Guzmanias* are very fashionable as a house plant and are really catching on with indoor decorating. It has a real presence and comes in many vibrant colors, including some incredible reds that are perfect for the holidays," says Michael Kent, who runs the Vista-based family business with his brothers Larry and Jeff Kent.

Guzmanias are tall with shainy leaves. Colorful bracts (leaves) shoot up from the center of the plant. Like all Bromeliads, the color comes in the foliage, not the flower—one reason color lasts for months at a time. Bromeliads can be adapted to fit any décor, so when the holidays are over you can continue to liven up your home for several months.

"The Bromeliad is very versatile. It can look contemporary, retro, or even country. You can dress it up for the occasion. It's a true chameleon," says van Rems. To embellish your holiday with Bromeliads, van Rems recommends starting with the décor at hand and taking if from there.

1. ***See Red…and Green and White***—You have a lot of colors to choose from with Bromeliads. For the holidays, red, green, and white are ideal. *Guzmanias* come in a variety of reds, and you can even choose a variety that has green and white variegated leaves. Or decorate with white *Guzminia* Pax or *Guzmania* Snowball.
2. ***Wrap it Up***—You have a beautiful Bromeliad; now put it in a holiday mood with a fitting container. Because Bromeliads have a small root system, you can place them in smaller pots that really allow the plant to show off.
3. ***Dress for the Holidays***—For charm and whimsy, hang a few miniature ornaments or handmade snowflakes from the leaves. Cover the soil with shiny ornaments. Or sprinkle artificial snow on top of the soil. Then wrap the container in gold or red and tie it off with holiday ribbon.
4. ***Find the Right Place***—It's all about location. You can place Bromeliads just about anywhere, except in full sunlight. Study your interior and try your Bromeliad creation in different places. Try putting three next to each other in a row, or bunched together at staggered heitghts. Bromeliads also make stunning centerpeices, so consider topping your dinner table with an arrangement of a Bromeliad and another festive plant or two.

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Coronado CA 92118-2710

4th Mon - 9:30 am, Winn Room,
Coronado Public Library
CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Betsy Cory 619-656-8669
P.O. Box 57
Chula Vista CA 91912-1016
3rd Thu - 11:45 am, Norman Park Senior Center
CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Pres: Carvill Veech 619-435-8079
P. O. Box 180188
Coronado CA 92118-0188
ÚCROWN GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Loie Wilkens 619-435-0858
851 "J" Avenue
Coronado CA 92118-2414
4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library
DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Marcia Townsend 760-749-4976
P. O. Box 123
Valley Center CA 92082-0123
2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall
FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Judy Farnan 760-451-0792
P. O. Box 1702
Fallbrook CA 92088-1702
3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, FPUD Bldg on Mission Rd
Last Thu - 9:30 am, Fallbrook Presbyterian Church on Stage Coach
FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB
Chrm: Mrs. Neil Powers 858-829-7944
16049 Vista de Golf
San Diego CA 92091-4340
2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Homes of Members
LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Ann Massey 858-292-9414
P. O. Box 2713
La Jolla CA 92038-2713
3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J.Lutheran Church
LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219
P. O. Box 301582
Escondido CA 92030-1582
4th Mon - 2:00 pm - Rancho Bernardo Library (new), 2nd floor
LAS JARDINERAS
Pres: Julie Warren 619-298-7043
3919 Portola Place
San Diego CA 92103-2705
3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Homes of Members
MIRACOSTA HORT. CLUB OF OCEANSIDE
Co-Presidents:
Felicia Moscinski 760-726-4047
809 Olive Avenue, #40
Vista CA 92083-3373
Don Nelson 760-630-3580
952 Park Hill Drive
Escondido CA 92025-4853
donnelson12sbcglobal.net
3rd Sat - 12:45 pm, MiraCosta Community College, Student Center Bldg (upstairs)
Meetings Sep thru Jun ONLY
MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Ellen Preston 619-295-2110
1825 Sheridan Avenue
San Diego CA 92103-1635
4th Wed - 6:30 pm,Mission Hills United Church of Christ at 4070 Jackdaw Street
✶POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Dolly Hartman 619-276-0209
4991 September Street
San Diego CA 92110-1219
2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Masonic Center
1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd
Guests welcome
POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
President: Gail Matson 858-486-8969
P. O. Box 27
Poway CA 92074-0027
2nd Wed - 9:00 am, Lake Poway Pavilion
RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Iris Price 760-788-8035
1310 Wilson Road #A
Ramona Ca 92065-3550
2nd Wed - 10:00 a.m. Ramona Community Center, 434 Aqua Lane, Ramona
RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Donna Ferrier 858-756-1554
P. O. Box 483
Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067-0483
MSAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Joyce McManus 619-449-3230
9943 Beck Drive
Santee CA 92071-4509
4th Tue - 9:30 am, Homes of Members
SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Rita Koczela 760-804-7366
7585 Navigator Circle
Carlsbad CA 92011-5405
4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens
VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
Pres: Connie Brown 858-453-5363
6327 Benhurst Court
San Diego CA 92122-3021
4th Thu - 10:00 am, Torrey Pines Christian Church, LJ
VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Karen England 760-214-3685
P. O. Box 44
Vista CA 92085-0044
1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center

IKEBANA SCHOOLS:

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Haruko Crawford 619-660-2046
10411 San Carlos Drive
Spring Valley CA 91978-1034
IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
Pres: Mrs. Peter Gaskin 619-758-9609
4484 Long Branch Avenue
San Diego CA 92107-2303
4th Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado
IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 858-278-5689
2822 Walker Drive
San Diego CA 92123-3056
OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
LA JOLLA CHAPTER
P. O. Box 500765 858-672-7850
San Diego CA 92150-0765
2nd Tues - 10:00 am, La Jolla Library
OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Akiko Bourland 858-273-5899
2936 Havasupai Avenue
San Diego CA 92117-1641
SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO BRANCH
Director: Hiroko Szechinski 858-571-6137
10830 Montego Drive
San Diego CA 92124-1421
SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey 619-429-6198
2829 Flax Drive
San Diego CA 92154-2160

PLANT SOCIETIES:

AFRICAN VIOLET

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Pres: Barbara Conrad 858-759-9972
3435 Jasmine Crest
Encinitas CA 92024-7036
4th Mon - 10:00 am - Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Avenue

BEGONIA

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Doris Smith 619-222-1294
4505 Long Branch Avenue
San Diego CA 92107-2333
2nd Tue - 10:30 am, Homes of Members
MABEL CORWIN BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Dean Turney 760-942-1919
467 Fulvia
Encinitas CA 92024-2146
2nd Sun - 1:30 pm, except May & Aug Quail Gardens
MARGARET LEE BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Michael Ludwig 619-262-7535
6040 Upland Street
San Diego CA 92114-1933
Last Sat - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

BONSAI

HON BON NO ASSOCIATION
Pres: Brenda Storey
858-689-0957
9976 Dauntless Street
San Diego CA 92126-5514
1st Sun every other month (begin Feb)
10:30 am, Casa del Prado
SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
Information Telephone 619-699-8776
P. O. Box 40037
San Diego CA 92164-0037
2nd Sun - 10:30 am, Casa del Prado
Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 am before meeting

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK
Pres: Joann Dossett 619-299-4115
2871 Brant Street
San Diego CA 92103-6119
2nd Tue - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (*continued*)

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Mary Whittemore 619-561-0687
P. O. Box 83996
San Diego CA 92138-3966
2nd Sat - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado
EXCEPT Nov & Dec
NORTH COUNTY BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Margaret Case 760-721-8422
610 Rockledge Street
Oceanside CA 92054-4230
4th Sun - 1:00 pm, Ecke Building, Quail Gardens

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
P. O. Box 840
Escondido CA 92033
4th Sat - 12:15 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr, Escondido
SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Pres: Mark Fryer 619-795-1020
P. O. Box 33181
San Diego CA 92163-3181
2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Pres: E. C. (Gene) Snooks 858-454-6659
6114 La Jolla Blvd
La Jolla CA 92037-6702
3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado
Meetings Nov through Apr ONLY

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Pres: David J. Tooley 858-672-2593
11375 Nawa Way
San Diego CA 92129-1116
E-mail: djsj21643@aol.com
4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado
DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)
SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
Contact: Betsy Hamblin 858-483-5584
851 Opal Street
San Diego CA 92109-1780
1st Sat - 10:00 am, Sep thru May, Quail Gardens

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
Pres: Phil Peck 619-491-9495
P. O. Box 126127
San Diego CA 92112-6127
Website: www.epiphyllum.com
2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
Pres: Sherry Worthen 858-278-2017
3141 Cabrillo Mesa Drive
San Diego CA 92123-2945
3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS
Chair: David Silverstein
4722 Coronado Avenue
San Diego CA 92107-3543
4th Thu - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado
Nov & Dec ONLY, 3rd Thu

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
Pres: Jim Budlove 619-287-6299
6404 Zena Drive
San Diego CA 92115-7026
2nd Tue - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

HERB

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB
Pres: Heidi Behnke 619-231-0182
2721 A Street
San Diego CA 92102-1019
1st Wed - 7:00 pm, Balboa Park Casa del Prado, Room 101, no meeting July or Dec.

IRIS

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Ted Howse 619-479-3887
3915 Vista San Miguel
Bonita CA 91902-2345
2nd Sun - 1:00 pm
Call for newsletter and location
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Eileen Fiumara 818-986-4188
4512 Sunnyslope Avenue
Sherman Oaks CA 91423-3119
1st Thu - 7:30 pm - Canoga Park Women's Club
7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
619-685-7321
P. O. Box 121390
San Diego CA 92112-1390
3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado
LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219
3045 Felicita Road
Escondido CA 92029-6725
4th Mon - 2:00 pm - Rancho Bernardo Library (new), 2nd floor

ORCHID

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY
A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
Pres: Loren Ellsworth
858-748-8355
14730 Dash Way
Poway CA 92064-2914
3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Carlsbad Women's Club
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
Pres: Genie Hammond
619-426-6831
P. O. Box 161020
San Diego CA 92176-1020
1st Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Ron Nordfelt
619-475-8086
935 Rawhide Court
Bonita CA 91902-2422
4th Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church at 4701 Sweetwater Road. Meeting in back. EXCEPT Aug & Dec

PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY
Pres: Joy Herzog 619-443-4795
P. O. Box 20553
El Cajon CA 92021-0940
4th Sun - 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, Feb thru Oct
Casa del Prado, Room 102
E-mail: e.herzog@att.net

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Karen Mannino 619-401-9625
11977 Paseo Fuerte
El Cajon CA 92020-8366
Website: www.eastcountyrosesociety.com
1st Sun - 2:00 pm, except Jul & Aug
Gardens of Members
SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Ruth Tiffany 619-462-5753
6705 Maury Drive
San Diego CA 92119-2020
3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado
EXCEPT Jan & Feb - 4th Mon
No meetings Jul & Aug

TREES

PEOPLE FOR TREES
Contact: Pat Stevenson 619-222-TREE
P. O. Box 120505 FAX 619-223-TREE
San Diego CA 92112-0505
E-mail: adoglover1@juno.com
4th Tue - 6:30 pm, 743 Imperial Avenue

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY
Pres: Ed Simpson 760-436-3704
1302 Avocado Road
Oceanside CA 92054-5702
3rd Sun - Apr thru Oct

AFFILIATES:
Send changes to: Rosaleen Cox, Affiliates Editor, *California Garden*, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1622. Call 619-232-5762
E-mail: membership@sdfloral.org
Deadline for Nov-Dec issue: Nov 28, 2005
Each affiliate group is entitled to a free advertisement once each year. It should be camera ready and text should be enclosed in a border. The border must be included when measuring dimensions, which are to be 3.5 inches wide by 2.25 inches high.

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Free Tuesdays

No other city in the world has as much to offer as San Diego. The jewel in its crown is Baboa Park, home to the San Diego Floral Association, the San Diego Zoo, the Botanical Building, the Flower Arrangers Guild, Garden Clubs, Flower Shows, and fifteen world famous Museums.

"Free Tuesday" museum days is an honored tradition at Balboa Park. Keep this list of free Tuesdays for reference.

First Tuesday in each month:

Natural History Museum (permanent exhibit only)

Fleet Science Center (fee charged for Space Theater)

San Diego Model Railroad Museum

Second Tuesday:

Museum of Photographic Arts

Museum of San Diego History

Veterans Museum and Memorial Center

Third Tuesday:

Japanese Friendship Garden

Mingei International Museum

San Diego Art Institute

San Diego Museum of Art (Permanent exhibit only)

San Diego Museum of Art

Fourth Tuesday:

House of Public Relations Cottages

San Diego Aerospace Museum

San Diego Automotive Museum

San Diego Hall of Champions

Other Free Days:

San Diego Floral Association Library (for information, call 619-232-5762)

Botanical Building (closed Thursdays)

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CITY: _____ STATE: ____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____

San Diego Floral Association
1650 El Prado #105
San Diego, CA 92101-1622
in the Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

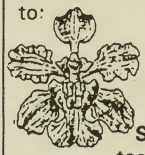
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

NOW is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

All this and a great monthly newsletter for only $15.00 (single membership) or $20.00 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:

Tess Taylor
SDCOS Membership
P.O. Box 161020
San Diego, CA 92176
tess_mazza@hotmail.com



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